

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A monitoring device is coupled to the open proximal end of an implanted gastrostomy feeding tube in order to monitor the administration of enteral nutritional fluids into the body of the patient. The monitoring device includes a clamshell-like casing and an electronic control circuit mounted within the casing. The casing includes upper and lower housings which are coupled together about a hinge. The casing additionally includes a connector shaped to fittingly project into the open proximal end of the feeding tube, the connector defining a lumen in fluid communication with the longitudinally-extending bore of the tube. A metering device is disposed within the lumen in the casing and is electrically connected to the control circuit. In use, the monitoring device is capable of, among other things, measuring the duration of a particular feeding period, measuring the duration between subsequent feeding periods, and measuring the delivery rate and amount of fluid that passes through the lumen during a feeding period, the results of the measurements being provided on an externally-viewable display.